

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q79675

Masaru FUKUDA

Division of Appln. No.: 09/283,998,  
Filed: April 2, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2839

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Filed: February 6, 2004

For: A CONNECTOR LOCK MECHANISM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

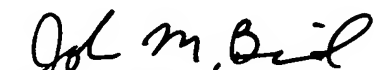
In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form which are all the references of record in parent application No. 09/283,998. Applicant is not submitting duplicate copies of these references but requests that they be listed on the face of any patent granted on the above application. (See 37 CFR §1.98(d)). Copies of any cited copending applications, if not previously submitted, are being submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

Information Disclosure Statement  
Division of Serial No. 09/283,998  
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waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any  
listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 6, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO  <b><u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u></b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Div. of Appln. Number	09/283,998
				Confirmation Number	Not Yet Known
				Filing Date	February 6, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Masaru FUKUDA
				Art Unit	2839
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q79675

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 4,431,244		02/1984	Anhalt et al.
		US 5,839,915		11/1998	Ford, et al.
		US 5,910,027		06/1999	Wayt, et al.
		US 6,113,416		09/2000	Holzer,
		US 6,257,922		07/2001	Shinozaki
		US 5,775,930		07/1998	Model, et al.
		US 5,830,002		11/1998	Ito, et al.
		US 5,876,232		03/1999	Matsushita, et al.
		US 6,068,507		05/2000	Popa
		US 6,341,972		01/2002	Odorfer
		US 6,343,948		02/2002	Nutzel
		US 4,392,706		07/12/1983	Baker, et al.
		US 4,655,527		04/07/1987	Vandame

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	•	EP	0 601 522	A2	06/15/1994		
	-	EP	0 030 768		06/24/1981		
		JP	9-180820		07/11/1997		
		JP	1-98484		06/30/1989		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.